

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NEW DE 02083 111423Z POSS DUPE
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /076 W
-----112024Z 008254 /46

R 111221Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1185
INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USLO PEKING
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USCINCPAC HAWAII
AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMCONSUL MADRAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 2083

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, IN
SUBJ: DISTRIBUTING CONGRESS "TICKETS"

INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY: ONE OF THE MOST FREQUENTLY
DISCUSSED TOPICS FOLLOWING PRIME MINISTER GANDHI'S ANNOUNCE-
MENT OF ELECTIONS WAS HOW MANY OF THE CONGRESS "TICKETS"
(I.E., NOMINATIONS FOR SEATS) WOULD BE GIVEN TO YOUTH
CONGRESS CANDIDATES AND OTHERS ASSOCIATED WITH SANJAY GANDHI.
SOME OBSERVERS EVEN REMARKED THAT THE REAL BATTLE IN THE
ELECTION WOULD NOT OCCUR IN THE ACTUAL POLLING IN MARCH,
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NEW DE 02083 111423Z POSS DUPE

BUT RATHER IN THE PROCESS OF HANDLING OUT CONGRESS TICKETS.
ESTIMATES CIRCULATED THAT THE YOUTH COULD BE ASSIGNED
BETWEEN 100-200 OF THE 542 SEATS FOR THE LOK SABHA.
THREE AND A HALF WEEKS AND JAGJIVAN RAM'S RESIGNATION LATER,
THE PICTURE HAS ALTERED DRASTICALLY. ALTHOUGH THE CON-
GRESS' CENTRAL ELECTION COMMITTEE HAS NOT COMPLETED THE
SELECTION PROCESS (ABOUT 230 TICKETS REMAIN TO BE DISTRI-

BUTED), THE LISTS IN ENOUGH STATES AROUND THE COUNTRY HAVE BEEN FINALIZED TO PROJECT THE EMERGENCE OF A REMARKABLY CONSISTENT PATTERN: DUE TO THE "CHANGED POLITICAL SITUATION", CONGRESS IS RELYING UPON TRIED AND TRUSTED POLITICIANS AS ITS CANDIDATES FOR LOK SABHA SEATS AND IS GIVING TICKETS TO A MERE HANDFUL OF YOUTH CONGRESSMEN AND OTHER "NEW FACES". END INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY.

1. FIGURES VARY FROM STATE TO STATE, BUT IN MOST INSTANCES IT APPEARS THAT BETWEEN 60 PERCENT AND 70 PERCENT OF CURRENTLY SITTING CONGRESS MP'S ARE BEING GIVEN TICKETS. IN ANDHRA, FOR EXAMPLE, 25 OF THE 33 TICKETS DISTRIBUTED SO FAR HAVE GONE TO SITTING MP'S; IN MADHYA PRADESH 19 OF THE CURRENT 23 INCUMBENTS HAVE BEEN RENOMINATED; IN KARNATAKA 18 OF THE 27 INCUMBENTS HAVE RECEIVED TICKETS. IN PUNJAB, ALL NINE OF THE PRESENT CONGRESS SEAT-HOLDERS HAVE BEEN RENOMINATED.

2. IN SEVERAL STATES THE PROPORTION OF SITTING MP'S RECEIVING TICKETS IS SOMEWHAT BELOW THE NORM. THIS DOES NOT INDICATE, HOWEVER, THAT "NEW FACES" ARE BEING ASSIGNED SEATS; RATHER, CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE RAJYA SABHA (INCLUDING CENTRAL CABINET MINISTERS) AS WELL AS CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE STATE ASSEMBLIES ARE RECEIVING TICKETS. IN RAJASTHAN, WHERE TEN OF THE 16 CURRENT CONGRESS INCUMBENTS HAVE BEEN RENOMINATED, ONE RAJYA SABHA MEMBER AND FIVE MEMBERS OF THE STATE ASSEMBLY HAVE BEEN GIVEN LOK SABHA TICKETS. IN ADDITION, A VENERABLE CONGRESSMAN AND FORMER CENTRAL MINISTER, K. L. SHRIMALI, WAS BROUGHT BACK FROM RETIREMENT

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NEW DE 02083 111423Z POSS DUPE

TO CONTEST THE UDAIPUR SEAT IN RAJASTHAN. IN MAHARASHTRA, WHERE ONLY HALF OF THE SITTING MP'S WERE RENOMINATED, ANOTHER FIVE TICKETS WERE GIVEN TO RAJYA SABHA MEMBERS AND STATE ASSEMBLY MEMBERS. OTHER TICKETS FOR THE STATE WERE GIVEN TO TRADITIONAL PARTY LOYALISTS WHO HAVE SERVED THE CONGRESS IN THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT OR IN THE COOPERATIVE INSTITUTIONS WHICH FORM THE BACKBONE OF CONGRESS STRENGTH IN THE RURAL AREAS.

3. THE FEW "NEW FACES" WHICH ARE APPEARING, HOWEVER, DO NOT NECESSARILY MEAN YOUNG FACES. AS FAR AS WE AND THE CONGENS CAN DETERMINE, A MERE HANDFUL OF READILY IDENTIFIABLE YOUTH CONGRESSMEN HAVE BEEN GIVEN TICKETS SO FAR: ONE IN ANDHRA, TWO IN ORISSA, ONE IN MAHARASHTRA (AND THIS LATTER CANDIDATE IS NOT ASSOCIATED WITH SANJAY'S CLIQUE). IN MADHYA PRADESH, TWO YOUTH CONGRESSMEN RECEIVED TICKETS, ONE OF WHOM IS A GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE ORGANIZATION. ANOTHER GENERAL SECRETARY, JANARDHAN SINGH GAHLOT, HAS BEEN NOMINATED FOR THE JAIPUR SEAT AND HE APPEARS TO BE

THE ONLY YOUTH CONGRESS CANDIDATE IN RAJASTHAN. ALTHOUGH THE LIST IS NOT COMPLETED, THERE DO NOT APPEAR TO BE ANY YOUTH CONGRESS CANDIDATES FROM GUJARAT.

4. COMMENT: THE ABOVE COMPILATION IS PRELIMINARY AND THE TRUE COMPLEXION OF THE CONGRESS CANDIDATES WILL NOT BE KNOWN UNTIL THE TICKETS ARE DISTRIBUTED IN THE CRUCIAL STATES OF BIHAR AND U.P. BUT OVERALL, IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT THE YOUTH CONGRESS' (AND SANJAY'S) EARLIER CONFIDENCE IN SECURING A MAJOR BLOC OF CONGRESS NOMINATIONS HAS BEEN IRREVOCABLY DASHED. IN CONTRAST TO YC PRESIDENT MRS. AMBIKA SONI'S CONFIDENT STATEMENT 10 DAYS AGO THAT THE YOUTH CONGRESS INTENDED TO WIN THE "MAXIMUM NUMBER" OF NOMINATIONS, GENERAL SECRETARY GAHLOT ON FEB 10 SAID THAT IN VIEW OF THE "CHANGED POLITICAL SITUATION" THE SUPREME TASK FOR THE YOUTH CONGRESS NOW IS THE STRENGTHENING OF THE CONGRESS ITSELF.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 NEW DE 02083 111423Z POSS DUPE

5. IT IS GENERALLY ACKNOWLEDGED BY ALL OUR SOURCES THAT RAM'S RESIGNATION FORCED THE PARTY HIGH COMMAND TO RE-EXAMINE ALL THE CANDIDATE LISTS SUBMITTED BY THE STATE UNITS AND TO SEEK AND NAME CANDIDATES WHO ARE LOYAL, HAD DEMONSTRATED PREVIOUS ELECTORAL SUCCESS (EITHER IN THE LOK SABHA OR STATE-LEVEL POLLS) AND AT LEAST HAVE SOME HOLD OVER THE LOCAL ELECTORATE. RAM HIMSELF HAS PUBLICLY STATED THAT HIS FORMER COLLEAGUES IN THE CONGRESS PARLIAMENTARY PARTY OUGHT TO BE GRATEFUL TO HIM: IN ALL LIKELIHOOD, MANY WOULD NOT HAVE RECEIVED TICKETS HAD HE NOT RESIGNED, AND SEVERAL OLDER CONGRESS MP'S HAVE PRIVATELY ACKNOWLEDGED TO US THIS DEBT OF GRATITUDE TO HIM. EXCEPT FOR ONE APPEARANCE WITH HIS MOTHER ON FEB 9 AT A SMALL "SPONTANEOUS" RALLY OUTSIDE HER RESIDENCE, SANJAY HAS VIRTUALLY DISAPPEARED FROM VIEW SINCE RAM'S RESIGNATION. IT IS GENERALLY ASSUMED NOW THAT SANJAY WILL NOT EVEN CONTEST A SEAT FROM UP (AS ORIGINALLY EXPECTED), SO SEVERE HAS BEEN THE SETBACK TO HIS OWN IMAGE.

6. WE SHOULD ALSO NOTE IN CONNECTION WITH THE DISTRIBUTION OF TICKETS THUS FAR, THAT THERE DOES NOT SEEM TO BE ANY DISCERNIBLE EMPHASIS GIVEN TO EITHER RIGHT-WING OR LEFT-WING CONGRESSMEN. THERE IS SOME EVIDENCE THIS ISSUE WILL BECOME MORE PROMINENT WHEN THE BIHAR AND UP LISTS ARE ANNOUNCED.

SCHNEIDER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NATIONAL ELECTIONS, ELECTION FORECASTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NEWDE02083
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770050-0098
Format: TEL
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770250/aaaabrwj.tel
Line Count: 166
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 82ecf5c7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3342835
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DISTRIBUTING CONGRESS \"TICKETS\" INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY: ONE OF THE MOST FREQUENTLY DISCUSSED TOPICS FOLLOWING PRIME MINISTER GANDHI'S
TAGS: PINT, IN, (GANDHI, INDIRA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/82ecf5c7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009